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Assistant Director for Research and Reports

22 May 1956

THRU : Chief, Economic Research Area

Chief, Industrial Division, ORR

Trip to the University of Illinois, May 15 and 16.

1. The objectives of this trip were to interview again applicants for employment who, having received full clearances, cancelled their applications and to review our recruiting effort at the University with qualified members of the faculty.

2. Interviews were held with the following people:

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██████████ had applied for employment and had been processed. ██████████ is a former ORR employee. ██████████ is a senior member of the faculty in economics and a close personal friend of the writer.

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3. ██████████ has definitely cancelled his application. He explains this in terms of a growing conviction he wants the academic life rather than research. ██████████ is reactivating his application and is thinking in terms of coming with the Agency at the end of the fall semester (February 1957). He will be corresponding with ██████████ shortly. In connection with his application, we talked on the assumption that it will be possible for him to take his medical examination and his final security interview prior to his E.O.D. date. Ideally, this should take place in the first part of November so that he can give appropriate notice to the University after the results of the medical examination and security interview are known.

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4. As did ██████████, ██████████ is asking for a years leave of absence from the University with the expectation that he will remain with CIA if he finds the work to be agreeable. In the event he does not like it, he would plan to return to the University in February 1958.

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5. My conversation with ██████████ was not very fruitful. I do not believe that he is going out of his way to advise possible applicants against CIA. However, if someone comes to him I cannot imagine that he would have anything favorable to say about us. He

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has a very strong emotional block on this subject and nothing I could say altered it. It is [REDACTED] contention that the research program in ORR is very poorly organized, that the work could be performed more efficiently on a contract basis and that no one in ORR is willing to make the corrections which he considers to be necessary. He implies that his dissatisfaction is a result of the research inadequacies he discovered. This does not "jibe" with the known fact that he had initiated a move to return to the University before 1 October and before he had had an opportunity to get any sort of a feel for the research program.

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[REDACTED]

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The victors have not been very kind to this group. Undoubtedly [REDACTED] were as much interested in getting out of this situation as they were in getting into CIA. At present, the "in" group is trying to absorb the remaining members of the "out" group so that life is a little more bearable.

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7. One final general observation is pertinent. My discussion with [REDACTED] brought once again to my mind the fact that CIA is not alone in having recruiting problems. There is a shortage of economists. Turnover in academic institutions is high and the problem for them of replacing losses is difficult. In one sense this is a source of comfort (misery loves company) but more importantly it suggests that we have to continue making a reasonably big effort for a relatively small return. It also suggests that we should take a hard look at our internal procedure to see if there isn't some way of reducing the time lags and the uncertainties for those people who do join up with us. Making provisions for the medical examination and the final security interview in advance of the date when a man must sever an existing relationship is a step in the right direction.

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[REDACTED]

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